
New England States Animal Agricultural Security Alliance

NESAASA

CHARTER

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

This Charter acknowledges and documents the purposes for which the New England States Animal Agricultural Security Alliance, herein after referred to as “NESAASA”, exists and defines the structure by which the Alliance will operate. All participation is voluntary and at the discretion of the individual state. By participating in NESAASA, each state, and its represented agencies and organizations, agree to abide by the goals and scope of activities defined in this Charter.

This Charter does not obligate any state to contribute resources to the Alliance. NESAASA member states will utilize the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to share assets regionally.

OFFICIAL DESIGNATION

The official designation of this body is the New England States Animal Agricultural Security Alliance, herein after referred to as “NESAASA.”

MISSION STATEMENT

NESAASA is an interactive regional collaboration of the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. As a regional multi-agency coordination group, NESAASA supports, enhances, and complements state and regional animal and animal agriculture planning, readiness, and emergency response systems.

NESAASA ‘s mission is to strengthen all-hazard response capabilities through alliances with the public, animal and animal agriculture industries, relevant private sector organizations, academia, and all levels of government.

NESAASA strives to protect New England animal agriculture and other agricultural animal systems, through increased efficiency and effectiveness of mutually agreed upon multi-state projects. Globalization of food production and agricultural trade continue to expand, increasing the economic, public health, agro-security and animal disease risks to the New England’s animal agricultural economy.

NESAASA efforts will have direct economic, public health, food -security and animal disease control impact on the safety, security and economic viability of New England's animal agricultural industry and infrastructure. Data from the USDA, National Agricultural Statistical Service, 2007 Census for Agriculture estimates the annual market value of animal agriculture products produced in New England at \$ 1.25 billion dollars. In addition, changes in production of animal agricultural goods and services have direct and indirect economic effects on salaries, land, equipment, and other associated industries that greatly increase the economic impact of changes in the animal agriculture sector on the regional economy.

GOAL

To support and develop regional NIMS-compliant standards, processes, and capacity through collaborative planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts that help to ensure the safety, health and security of the regional food and animal and animal agriculture sector infrastructure and economy. NESAASA seeks to enhance New England regional animal and animal agriculture emergency preparedness and response to all hazards including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRNE) incidents and natural disasters.

SCOPE OF ACTIVITY

NESAASA will work to:

- Enhance individual state programs by sharing expertise, information, and resources, as well as developing mutually beneficial projects and materials;
- Support National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance;
- Promote regional interstate planning and preparedness efforts;
- Build intra-state and interstate response capabilities;
- Develop and deliver consistent and effective communications to regional constituent groups, stakeholders, and the public, for use during routine activities and emergencies;
- Enhance regional coordination and collaboration with animal and animal agricultural industries and other stakeholder groups.
- Recognize and respect state-specific policies, statutes, authorities, industry practices and limitations;
- Work to support and preserve animal agriculture infrastructure in New England.
- Periodically evaluate and critique current capacity to respond to an all-hazards animal agricultural and animal emergency event.
- Develop and periodically review a multi-year strategic plan for the organization.

PARTICIPATING STATES AND AGENCIES

Participating States: The states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont are designated as the initial participating states.

Participating Agencies: All public and private stakeholders within any of the participating states as identified by the respective state's governor, commissioner of agriculture, or emergency planning director or designee may be invited to participate.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

NESAASA Members:

- Participate in conference calls and meetings
- Identify and promote NESAASA materials and projects
- Actively engage in project workgroups
- Identify key stakeholders within respective states.

WORK GROUPS

Workgroups will be established as needed, and may incorporate stakeholders, such as industry, non-governmental organizations, federal agencies, and others to ensure multi-disciplinary expertise and interests are represented.

NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

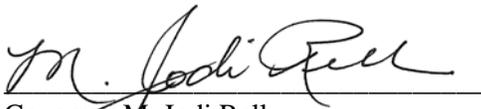
NESAASA will strive to meet at least annually in the fall. Conference calls will be held bi-monthly, and more frequently as needed. The intent is to maintain ongoing communication by fully utilizing electronic means to communicate between meetings and calls.

New England States Animal Agricultural Security Alliance
NESAASA
SIGNATURE PAGE

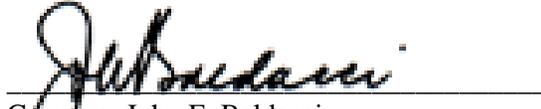
By signing below, I am indicating:

- That I support the Alliance Agreement as stated;
- That I have read the Charter and agree with it as stated;
- That I give acknowledgement and support of the New England States Animal Agricultural Security Alliance (NESAASA)
- That I will provide representation to NESAASA as outlined.

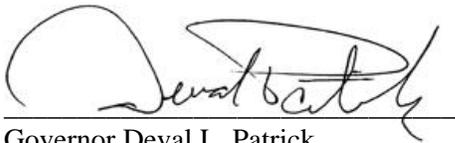
Signed July 21, 2010



Governor M. Jodi Rell
Connecticut



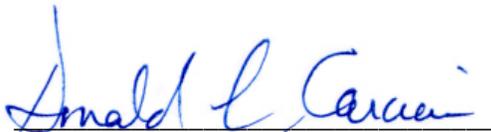
Governor John E. Baldacci
Maine



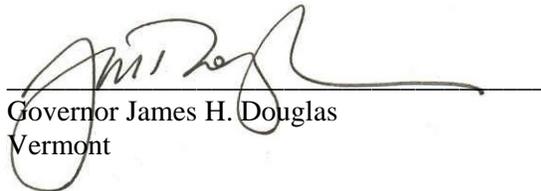
Governor Deval L. Patrick
Massachusetts



Governor John Lynch
New Hampshire



Governor Donald L. Carcieri
Rhode Island



Governor James H. Douglas
Vermont